



Student Financial Services

Unusual Circumstance

A. Student's Name: _____	MPC ID: _____
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Financial aid regulations assume that a student's family has primary responsibility for meeting educational costs. If you are considered a dependent student according to the standard financial aid definition, your aid eligibility is determined by using parent income and asset information in addition to your information.

What is a Dependency Override?
A dependency override occurs when a financial aid administrator exercises professional judgment and overrides the standard criteria on the FAFSA or CA DREAM Act application for dependent students. An override may only be granted on an individual case-by-case basis for students with unusual and exceptional circumstances. These circumstances must show a compelling reason for a student to be considered independent.

What conditions *might* warrant a Dependency Override?
A dependency override might be warranted for unusual circumstances which includes, but is not limited to:

- Left home due to an abusive or threatening environment;
- Abandonment or estrangement by parents;
- Have refugee or asylee status and are separated from their parents, or their parents are displaced in a foreign country;
- Are a victim of human trafficking;
- Are incarcerated, or their parents are incarcerated, and contact with the parents would pose a risk to the student; or
- Are otherwise unable to contact or locate their parents.

What conditions do not warrant a Dependency Override?
Federal regulations state that none of the conditions listed below, singly or in combination, qualify as unusual circumstances:

1. Parents refuse to contribute to the student's education.
2. Student does not live with parents.
3. Parents are unwilling to provide information on the FAFSA or CA Dream Act application or for verification.
4. Parents do not claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
5. Student demonstrates total self-sufficiency.

Outcome of Appeal
If your appeal is approved, we will notify you via your email and will submit the override information to the relevant aid application. Your financial aid will be packaged based on your independent status. Additional documents may be required after your override is accepted and processed by the application processor system. Be sure to check your financial aid portal for any additional items.
If your appeal is denied, we will notify you via your email account of our decision. It is the student's responsibility to update their aid application to provide parent information, income and signatures. All decisions on dependency overrides are made based on Professional Judgment by the MPC Financial Aid Office.

B. Student's Personal Statement – Use a separate sheet of paper to write/type your personal statement.
Student needs to write a clear and concise statement, explaining the unusual circumstance in as much detail as the student feels comfortable in sharing. Once written - sign, date and submit with all other documentation to the financial aid office.

C. Third-Party Statements – Be sure your name and MPC ID number are on each statement and attach to this appeal.
Provide at least two letters from third-party (e.g., a counselor, medical authority, member of the clergy, prison administrator, government agency, or court) who have knowledge of your situation and who can verify the circumstances you provided in your personal statement. Third-party letters **must include details as to how the person knows you, how long they have known you, and how they have been involved and/or have first-hand knowledge of your situation**. At least one of the letters must be from a member with a professional capacity on letterhead and must include their official title, phone number and full professional address. Note: third-party statements are a critical requirement to the dependency override process.

D. Additional Documentation _

Additional documentation may be required once the appeal has been reviewed. If additional documentation is required, we will notify you via your email account of what is needed.

E. Certification and Signatures – by signing this worksheet the student certifies that all the information reported on it, including any attachments, is complete and correct. If you purposely give false or misleading information you may be fined, sentenced to jail, or both.

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

Dependency Override
Approved

Processed via FAA/CPS

Dependency Override Denied

If approved, update Dependency field to (I) for Independent

Comment(s):

Processed/Reviewed By:

Date:

Monterey Peninsula College – Financial Aid Office – 980 Fremont Street,
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